## FROM WASHINGTON.

THE CALIFORNIA MAIL SERVICE opendence of The N. Y. Tribune.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 7, 1857. There are abundant signs to prove that the session is drawing toward a close. The hotels are full or fast filling up, and the rotunda of the Capital is each day thronged with a multitude of strange and anxious faces. Many are here for the purpose of getting office, and they think by being on the ground they will be able to obtain a hearing from those who are to dispense the natronage. But there are who are to dispense the patronage. But there are many here closely watching the action of Congress, and are looking for larger game than office. The thousand and one schemes of speculation, plunder, or relief presented during the two sessions of this Congress not yet disposed of, will, it is thought by the interested parties, be decided during the next four weeks, and hence the rush here of those whose business is to be present when the crisis arrives. The most important of these, perhaps, are the different schemes for getting ocean mail contracts: ferent schemes for getting ocean mail contracts; and as I claim to have some knowledge of the practieal effect of such contracts on the California branch of the service, let me ask the privilege of

saying a few words

And first, I hold that the whole mail service is as far as the people of California are concerned, an unmitigated nuisance. It subjects them to a tax on their correspondence for which they get no adequate or correspondence for which taey get no acquate or corresponding benefit. It gives a monopoly of business to the Government which could be done more promptly and satisfactorily at private expense, and with the same or less rates of letter carriage than are now paid. The express offices in California are more numerous than the postoffices. There is not a mining camp of any considerable size in the whole State where there are not at least two express offices. Wells, Fargo & Co.'s Express, and the Pacific Express, have their branch offices scattered all through the State, and it is a effices scattered all through the State, and it is a notorious fact that any business man having an important letter to transmit, an immediate answer to which is important, invariably sends it by express, notwithstanding he is obliged to inclose it in a Government envelope, and pay the express charge beside. So it is with important letters to New-York. If a letter of special importance is to be sent and received immediately. importance is to be sent and received immediately on the arrival of the steamer, the writer pays ten cents for the privilege of conveying it by express; that is, he first pays ten cents for his Government that is, he has pays the cent cents additional to the express company for carrying and delivering it. Thus the mail service is a direct tax upon him. He I must be man service is a direct tax apon min. The is obliged to pay for what he does not receive. The Government claims a monopoly of the letter-carrying business, and those who find the means provided by it tardy and unsafe are subjected to an onerous and unjust tax if they employ a more safe and speedy conveyance. The principle is the same as though the Government were to undertake the business of carrying passengers, and were then to compel every man who traveled on foot, or by any other conveyance, to pay the same fare to the Gov-ernment as if he had traveled in a Government

For safety the expresses are far preferable to the mails. Who that loses a letter containing anything of value ever thinks of recovering it from the United States! An express company is held to make good all losses by something stronger than the law. If a letter with a valuable enclosure be lost from an express office, it will not do for the company to stand a lawsuit about it. Publicity is what they have most to fear, and if they know a loss has occurred, if not very large, they promptly pay it. and beg the loser to say nothing about it. But how is it with the United States Post-Office! If anything intrusted to that is lost, it may be found, and so may the philosopher's stone. The express company depends entirely on the public confidence for its support. If the newspapers are filled with re-ports of suits against any company for letter packages lost, the public patronage will go straight-way to another company which meets with no such osses, or, if it does, promptly pays for them.

The express charge on a letter from any part of California to New-York is now the same as the postage. But it is additional to the postage, for the expresses are not allowed to carry letters unless they are inclosed in Government envelopes. Could they have the entire letter-carrying business, there is small doubt but they could and would take letters to and from California for one-half of what they now charge. For five cents each they could afford to bring letters from California to New-York, afford to bring letters from California to New-York, where on the payment of three cents more on each they could all be mailed to any part of the Union. To send letters the other way it would only be necessary to prepay them to New-York to the care of any particular Express Company, and leave the latter to collect its pay when the letter was delivered. Payment beforehand with an express company would not be compulsory. Thus, if the mail service to California was done away the public would be better served at a leas arrice, and the would be better served at a less price, and the Government would not be subject to pay a mail company \$800,000 annually for mail service.

It may be feared that if the mail-service were dispensed with, the expresses would have a monopoly of the letter-carrying business and might raise the price to 25 or even 50 cents a letter. Of this, however, there could be no danger, for so soon as anything of the kind was attempted any well known and responsible citizen who was going on the same steamer carrying the expresses might advertise a day or two in advance that he would carry letters through for five cents each. Of course then he would get nearly all the letters. The expresses would be compelled not only from the competition among themselves but from the transient interopers to carry what is now mail matter for just a

living profit.

It is, perhaps, idle to show how advantageous all around it would be to have the Pacific Mail service discontinued. The people have an idea that a Government mail is one of the bulwarks of republican institutions. Though it be shown that the public would be as well accommodated by private expresses, and that the dangerous political engine which the Post-Office has now become would be destroyed, yet no considerable portion of the community would hazard the experiment of its discontinuous control of the community would hazard the experiment of its discontinuous would be according to the control of the community would hazard the experiment of its discontinuous would be according to the control of the community would hazard the experiment of its discontinuous would be according to the control of the con continuance. The people of California would very likely think it a great outrage if they were not taxed with letter postage for the privilege of send-ing their letters outside of the mails. Reasons may be plenty as black-berries, but they avail little when the public mind is set against receiving them. You may show by facts and figures that Protection is necessary, but you have proved long since how little your arguments have availed against the pop ular cry of "Free Trade." The mail service wil doubtless be continued for many years, and only by continued hammering can the idea be driven into centinued hammering can the idea be driven into There must be years of discussion before any radical change can be effected.

There is another evil connected with this Califor nia mail service which is more palpable and has none of the public prejudice in favor of its continuance. I refer to the present contract system for carrying the ocean mails to California. This is a grievous outrage on the traveling public and ought by all means to be discontinued. At the time the present contract was entered into it was proper enough, for the project of maintaining a line of steamers to was an experiment, and it was alto gether problematical how much the travel to and fre would contribute toward supporting it. Now it is established that there is regularly travel it is established that there is regularly travel enough to support at least two lines of first-class steamers. Hence the reason for the payment of such a price for carrying the mails no longer exists. It doubtless had a good effect seven or eight years ago. It justified the Mail Company in sending round to the Pacific many fine steamers, and it must be conceded that the service has been well and promptly performed by the Pacific Mail Steamship Company. They had five boats on the Pacific side, they have been well conducted, and there has been a remarkable degree of regularity in their time. Had this mail contract not existed, the traveling public would have been compelled to put up with inferior boats and inferior ac-commodations. But this affords no reason for a continuance or renewal of the contract. The travel to and from California is so very large and uniform that the public is secure in having firstclass steamers, without the bonus of six or eight bundred thousand dollars being paid to one com-

very disastrous to these who are compelled to travel. It enables this company to break down competition, and as soon as it gets a monopoly it is more to improve it and charge high rates of fare. Suppose that one company gets a million of dollars annually for carrying the mails, it can afford to carry passengers at a loss and still make money. But another company depending entirely on passengers for support cannot long compete with it. The policy of a company having such a contract is to put down the fare so low that all competition is destroyed, and then when a monopoly is secured to put it up again. When there is no competition the result invariably is that the fare is high, the time slow, and the treatment hard. The traveling public have a right to complain against this enlistment of slow, and the treatment hard. The traveling public have a right to complain against this enlistment of the Government in aid of monopolies. Competition of the sharpest kind is what the public desires, and it is not the province of the Government to aid one company in breaking down competition so that it afterward may make enormous profits. The present system of special contracts is entirely wrong. A general law should be passed leaving the ocean mail service to the Pacific open to the lowest bidder, the price to be graduated according to the time made. This will not only secure greater dispatch, but a great saving would be made by the Government. There is little doubt but a weekly service could be secured for less money than is now paid for a semi-monthly, and if desirable it could paid for a semi-monthly, and if desirable it coul e made to alternate by two different routes.

The effect of this special contract system being so disastrous to the interests of the traveling public so disastrons to the interests of the traveling public they must regard all attempts of those in authority to continue or renew it as efforts on the part of the Government to break down competition and leave them at the mercy of an oppressive monopoly. They have a right to complain against such as abuse of government patronage, and they will complain. It is wrong—it is all wrong. The special contract system should be discarded for that of open and free competition. Let that company which can carry the mails through in the quickes time and for the least money have the privilege time and for the least money have the privilege In such an arrangement there can be no favoritism

## MR. BINGHAM, M. C., ON THE MINNESOT. BILL

To the Editor of The N. Y. Tribune.

Sin: Permit me through your journal to say some thing in vindication of my vote upon the Minnesot bill, which vote you characterize in an article of the 3 inst, as an act of misbehavior. You assume that a opportunity was given to offer amendments to this bi and censure myself and others for letting this opportunity pass unimproved and then voting against the bill. You are mistsken in your assumption. There was no opportunity given for amendment to this bill. Immediately upon its introduction, the previous question was demanded and sustained, thereby cutting off all amendment and excinding all debate. There was no course left but simply to vote for or against the bill as reported by the Committee. I voted against the bill because I considered and believed it to be wrong in principle and policy, and not because, as you seem to assume that I was desirous to retard or prevent the fermation and admission of a Free State. The admission of a Free State, formed within the Territory of Minnesots, is a consumnation which I am as desirous to effect as you can be: but I doubt whether it is likely to be advanced by incorporating in the enabling. Act (as does this Minnesota bill) a provision which you impliedly admit to be wrong. You say that "it would have been perfectly proper while the bill was open to amendment "to have moved that the right to vote in the election "of the Constitutional Convention should be confided to citizens of the United States." If it would have been proper to have adopted it, and so and censure myself and others for letting this opportu "to catizens of the United States." If it would have been proper to have offered this amendment to the bill, it would have been proper to have adopted it, and so you admit, for your say it "wound have prevailed without a show of opposition." If this provision was proper was it not wrong to report and pass the Minnesots bill without it? The House so coachaded immediately after the passage of this bill, by inserting with great unanimity, is the Oregon bill, this very provision which was wanting in the Minnesots bill. These two bills, as originally reported by the Committee, antherized persons who were not citizens of the United States, either native or naturalized, but alless to vote for the election of delegates to form State Constitutions and Governments within those Territories. The House struck this provision (without a show of opposition) from the Oregon bill, and inserted therein the amendment which you say it would have been "perfectly proper" to have inserted in the Minnesota bill. If it was right to strike this after provision from the Oregon bill it was wrong to retain it in the Minnesota bill, and equally wrong to enact any such provision into a law. It seems to me that sound policy and principle demands that only citizens of the United States, naturalized and native without distinction, should be authorized by Congressional enacement to form State Governments and Constitutions within our Territories. The importance of this result likely to flow from the neglect of the House to insert it in the Minnesota bill, you very clearly suggest. This reports are tasted by yourself is that the people of Minnesota may under the sanction of this bill, insert in their State Constitution the provision that Alless owing allegiance to toreign Governments may exercise the right of suffrage in the proposed new State of Minnesota might of suffrage in the proposed new State of Minnesota might of suffrage in the proposed new State of Minnesota might of suffrage in the proposed new State of Minnesota might of suffrage in the

their State Constitution the provision that ALESS wing allegiance to foreign Governments may exercise the right of suffrage in the proposed new State of Minnesota, and send representatives here to legislate over citizens of the United States.

The uniform practice of twenty seven States of the Union excluding aliens from the exercise of suffrage speaks in sten condemnation of this new policy. It is one thing to confer suffrage upon aliens within a Terrious line to confer suffrage upon aliens within a Terrious line in the seven state. speaks in stern condemnation of this new pointy. It is one thing to coafer suffrage upon aliens within a Terri-tory by a mere organic act for its government as a Ter-ritory, and quite another thing to authorize aliens by one thing to coafer suffrage upon aliens within a Territory by a mere organic act for its government as a Territory, and quite another thing to authorize aliens by an enabling act to form a State Government and Constitution. By the organic act Congress but prescribes a mode of petition through a Territorial Assembly, which petition, or Territorial act, as it is called, it is expressly declared Congress may allow or refuse at pleasure, but by an enabling act, as you state in your article, Congress confers upon the people of the Territory the absolute right to form a State Constitution, and which right you say they "must be allowed to exercise for themselves," subject to no limitations or restrictions, except those imposed by the enabling act. It does not follow because three or four new States have, without any authority of law, inaugurated this alien policy in their State organizations, that the Representatives in Congress ought to engraft that policy upon enabling acts, and thereby in advance give to it the sanction of national law. You alimit that this ought not to have been done in this Minnesota bill, and that it would have been "perfectly proper" to have so "amended that bill as to have restrained the new State "from extending the right of suffrage to any but citizens of the United States." I agree with you in that; and because that restriction was not imposed I voted against that bill. The House justified this vote by inserting the amendment in the Oregon bil restricting suffrage to citizens of the United States. naturalized and native. It is quite apparent that if this defect in the Minnesota bill had been known before the previous question was contamilized and bative. It is quite apparent that if this defect in the Minnesota bill had been known before the previous question was contamilized and bative. It is quite apparent that if this defect in the Minnesota bill had been known before the previous question was centanded and ordered, that bill would have been in like manner amended. The defect was not ap and the bill bad passed. I doubt not that those who voted for this bill were actuated by honest purposes and

voted for this bill were actuated by honest purposes and patriotic motives.

As a Republican, desirous of the speedy and complete triumph of all the principles set forth in the Republican platform, and as a representative of the prople. I cannot invor any legislation which is conceded to be wrong both in principle and policy. I freely accord to others the privilege of actuar up to their convictions of duty and demand the same right for myself. In the exercise of this undoubted right I voted for the Oregon bill and against the Minnesota bill. There two bills were in direct conflict in respect of a very important provision, and I could not, therefore, consist ently vote for both.

Very respectfully yours.

JOHN A. BINGHAM.

## THE PUBLIC PRINTING.

The following statement, which has been prepared or THE TRIBUNE from the original documents, shows the cost of the Printing, &c., ordered by the Senste and House of Representatives of the United States at the First and Second Sessions of the XXXIVth Con-

such a price for carrying the mails no longer exists.	gress, and already exec	cuted:			
It doubtless had a good effect seven or eight years		No.	Copies	Cost of	Cost of
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round to the Pacific many fine steamers, and	Do., Vol. 1	540	21.520	4,252 30	5,687 66
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From the above statement it appears that the Annual Message of the President of the United States for one sersion cost \$110,190 76, and that the total number of opies printed was 136,656.

The expense of publishing the single report of the Patent Office is enormous. For the two volumes of Arts and Manufactures, and one volume of Agriculture, the cost was \$291,262 17, and nearly 450,000 copies were printed.

The total cost of printing for the Senate was \$248,169 40; for the House of Representatives, \$433,130 82. Total for both, \$681,300 22.

The following table shows the cost of printing and paper for the Executive Departments during the year

ndirg June 30, 1857:			
and the same and some	Cost of	Cost of	Total
Department and Bureau.	Printing.	Paper.	Cost
ecretary of State		1,463 48	3,004 82
Dipiomatic Bureau		64 56	217 91
or sular Bureau		479 50	760 93
apyright Buten	1 45	60	2.65
assport Bureau	9 40	4 02	13 42
getite Office	12 86	3 96	16 82
toll Office	158 35	24 21	122 56
Statistical Office	6 30	3 52	9 12
Total	\$2,155 48	\$2,062 85	64,208 33
Secretary of the Treasury	946 60	449 (3	1,395 63
first Controller's Office	346 80	190 58	517 88
econd Controller's Office	21 70	16 28	37 98
first Audtor's Office	211 76	217 79	(29 55
econd Auditor's Office	20 67	12 24	32 31
hird Auditor's Office	163 05	121 51	204 54

Fourth Auditor's Office	# 10 30 33	29 TH	75 45 79 51 1.757 66
Sixth Auditor's Office	1,169 66	647 97 111 86	233 13
Tresurer's Office	122 09 29 76	100 56	510 32
Light-house Board	2.675 29	929 69	3,506 90
Commissioner of Custems	3 80	3 15	11 13
Solicitor's Office	29 55	32 00	60 M
Tetal	66,868 76	62,974 40	\$9,025 16
Secretary of the Interior	42 17	27 25	69 43
Land Office	8,666 21	4,247 61	9.913 F3
Pa'ent Office	5,509 78	1.917 43	7,487 21
Incian Office	29 65	25 28	52 33
Pension Office	2,879 98	1,511 19	4,390 87
Commim're Public Buildings.	36 29	21 45	58.44
Total	£14,224 18	\$7,747.51	# 21,972 0
Secretary of War	522 87	211 61	734 48
Quartermaster's Department.	148 29	140 45	298 7
Engit cer's Department	36 64	16 08	32 7
Topogr. Engineer's Depart'nt	24 00	24 00	4E 80
Ordinace Department	26 55 13 55	11 96	25 8
Subsistence Department	4.377 67	1.154 65	6,468 32
Surgeon General's Depart'nt. Adjutant General's Depart'nt	1,445 20	504 62	2,249 2
Tetal	66,795 57	<b>\$</b> 3,119 51	#9,914 85
Secretary of the Navy	660 55	500 07	1,161 03
Bureau of Yards and Docks	73 01	20 93	100 00
Bureau of Construction, Ac.	340.73	131 97	512 76
Bur, of Ordnazce & Hydrog.	16 78	9 44	25 22
Bur. Provisions & Clothing	1.028 61	455 99	1,484 68
Bur. of Medicine & Surgery.	67 79	12 76	80 53
Total	#2,233 SS	£1,150 22	63,373 10
Post-Office Bepar ment	39,152 95	73,119 63	112342 36
Attorney General's Office	667 60	176 83	244 43
Court of Claims	295 70	75.05	470 75
Superin'nt of Public Printing	21 91	3 99	25 90
Statement of Commerce	3,230 30	4,243 29	8,885 06
Estimates for 1856, 1857	16 84	36 54	53 38
Biennial Register (Blue-book)		202 18	3,218 56
Grand total			
The following extracts	from the I	report of t	ne Super-
intendent of Public Prin	ting show	the pres	ent condi-
tion of the edertific and			

of the Government:

"Several of the Reports from the Executive Departments, communicated to Congress during the thirty-second, thirty-third, and the first session of the thirty-fourth Congress, yet remain unfinished, from causes entirely beyond the control of this office. These

are:

"1st. The Report of the results of the United States Naval Astronomical Expedition to Chili, ordered to be printed at the second session of the thirty-second Cengress. Two volumes of this report, embracing the narrative and natural history of the expedition, were some time since completed and delivered to Congress. The residue of the volumes, four in number, contain the astronomical, magnetical and meterological results of the expedition, two of which are nearly completed; the remaining two volumes, I am informed by the office having charge of the preparation of the matter, will probably not be ready for the printer for a year.

year. ... 2d. Reports of Explorations and Surveys to ascer-"2d. Reports of Explorations and Surveys to ascer-tain the most practicable and comomical route for a Railroad from the Mississippi River to the Pacific Ocean, ordered to be printed at the second session of the thirty-third Congress. The first volume of these reports has been completed and delivered. Two more volumes will be completed and partly bound during the present session. The balance of the work is in hand, and enficient progress made to warrant the opinion that the work will be completed during the present year.

sand, and samelest progress made to writing the opinion that the work will be completed during the present year.

"3d. Report of the naval expedition to Japan ordered to be printed at the second session of the thirty-third Congress. Since the last annual report from this effice, two volumes of this work (the first containing the narrative of the expedition, and the third comprising 'observations on the zodincal light') have been completed and delivered; and it is confidently expected that the remaining volume (the second), containing the various scientific reports of officers connected with the expedition, will be ready for delivery before the adjournment of the present session of Congress.

"4th. Report on the commercial relations of the Finited States with all foreign nations, ordered to be printed at the first session of the thirty-fourth Congress. The printing of the first volume of this work has been completed, and it is now in the hands of the binders. It is understood that there will be several volumes of this report, in addition to that already printed, but this effice has no efficial information as to its probable extent; neither has it been familised with any portion of the manuscript for a continuation of the

printed, but this effice has no official information as to its probable extent; neither has it been furnished with any portion of the manuscript for a continuation of the work.

any portion of the manuscript for a continuation of the work.

"5th. Report of the United States Commissioner to survey the boundary line between the United States and the Republic of Mexico, ordered to be printed at the first session of the thirty fourth Congress. The first volume of this report, it is expected, will be completed before the close of the present Congress, but I am in formed that the materials for the second volume will not be in readiners for the printer in less than a year. The work will be bound in two volumes.

"The reports before mentioned are all directed to be printed in quasto form, and, with the exception of the report on the commercial relations of the United States with all foreign nations, are very elaborately and handsomely embeltished. They will be pushed forward to completion as rapidly as the necessary materials for this purpose are placed in the possession of this office.

"The residue of the printing ordered by the Senate and House of Representatives, previous to the commencement of the present session, has been nearly completed, and printed copies of every document, with two or three exceptions, have been placed in the possession of members of Congress and others to whom they are allotted by law. Detailed statements of the cort of printing and binding of these works will be found appended hereto, marked B. and C.

"The printing for the Executive Departments has been executed with promptness, and, so far as I have been able to learn, with very general satisfaction to those officers of Government for whose use it is intended.

"The printing for the present Session of Congress is

those officers of Government for whose use it is intended.

"The printing for the present Session of Congress is
progressing with great rapidity; the public printers empleying the whole force of their very extensive es ablishment both night and day for the purpose of placing
printed copies in the possession of Congress at as early
a day as possible. Bound volumes of the Annual
Statement of Commerce and Navigation, the size of
tormer reports upon this subject, are now being delivered to both Houses of Congress daily; printed
copies of the Annual Report of the Secretary of the
Treasury on the State of the Finances, a volume of
nearly 700 pager, has already been placed on the tables
of members; and the Annual Message of the President
of the United States, with the accompanying volumi-

of members; and the Annual Message of the President of the United States, with the accompanying voluminous reports from the Heads of Departments, it is expected, will be ready for delivery in a few days.

"Since the adjournment of the last session of Congress, the Printer for the House of Representatives, with a spirit of enterprise worthy of all commendation, erected at a very great expense, and doubtless with much risk as to the future productiveness of the investment of capital, the most complete and extensive printing establishment on this continent. The printing of Congress, during late years, has increased to such extent that there was no building in the City of Washington which afforded sufficient space and suitable architectural arrangements for bringing out the work with desirable expedition and neatness; and the tenure by which the Public Printer holds his office is se uncertain that, until now, no one felt disposed to encounter which the Public Printer holds his office is so uncer-tain that, until now, no one felt disposed to encounter the risk involved in an undertaking of this character. The facilities thus afforded will not only enable tais office to furnish the large orders for printing with greater dispatch, but will also enable it to make stilf further improvements in the general appearance of the public printing."

## THE TARIFF.

SPEECH OF THE HON. AMOS P. GRANGER OF NEW-YORK,

NEW-YORK,

Delivered in the House of Representatives of the United States, Feb. 10, 1857.

I understand, Sir, the main object in reducing the duty on wool is to encourage the manufacture of woolens. No man can be more willing and ready to do that than I am. I am very clear we should so arrange our tariff laws as to set our woolen factories in motion; it would be doing a great benefit to the whole country. But I cannot consent to have it done at the sacrifice of the wool-growing interest; and more than that, Sir, there is no need of it. If you desire to encourage manufactures you must level up, not down. This taking away two-thirds of the farmer's protection on wool, and giving it to the manufacturer, is not exactly what it is cracked up to be. To bring wool down from thurty to ten per cent, and a foreign valuation at that, will be fatal to our ficeks, and lessen the quantity and reduce the quality of wool all over the country. Away with foreign valuation anyhow; it is a cheat, the best way you can fix it. Wool should have the Tariff of 1842, and cloth the same, and both would ficure to together. We would soon raise our own wool and now one out now could made our own wool and one our won cloth and old mother Feedand. farm of 1992, and cloth the rame, and both would feurish together. We would soon raise our own wool and make our own cloth, and old mother England might do her own carding and spinning. We now raise the finest of wool, and we sent cloth new raise the finest of wool, and we sent sloth to England that took the premium at the World's Fair; it was the bees broadcloth in the world. We raise only fifty millions of pounds of wool; while of manufactured and unmanufactured wool we import one hundred and forty millions of pounds, seven eighths of which are kindly manufactured abroad, and come here ready for us to wear. Our whole country is admirably adapted to the growth of wool—every State and Territory produces it; the hillisides of the North, the Middle and the Southern States, and particularly the limitable wairies of the West are adapted to its crowth. We tory produces it; the hillsides of the North, the Middle and the Southern States, and particularly the lilimitable prairies of the West, are adapted to its growth. We could soon be in a condition to raise all the wool we could manufacture (except a trifle of very coarse wool, and that should come duty free), and we can manufacture all the cloth we need, and keep at home the countless millions of specie we now send abroad annually to pay for wool and woolens. Sir, is not that desirable! Now, I respectfully ask this House to pause and reflect before it does an act that will, at least, jeopard the

The Secretary of the Navy has made a practical experimental test, the result of which the following document will tell:

\*\*Navy Department.\*\*

\*\*Burral of Provision and Clothing.\*\*

Sir: In answer to your verbal request this morning. I have the bonor to say that, in the year 1852, thirty barrels of beef and thirty barrels of perk were packed with Donodase solar salt, ander the direction of this Bureau, for the purpose of practically testing its preservative qualities. This beef and porn has direction in the condition at the end of time mouths, and at the end of interminents of the Bureau. Official reports have been received from eight different ships, all of which concur in pronouncing the beef and pork cured with the Omodaga salt to be fully equal to that cured with Turk's Island. St. Ubes, or Isle of May salt.

\*\*I am, very respectfully, Sir, your obscient in BRIDGE.\*\*

\*\*Chief of Bureau of Provision and Clothing.\*\*

Hen. Ames. P. Granders, Mouse of Representatives.

\*\*Competition has brought down the price so low that salt is now afforded to the consumer at quite a cheap rate. It is made in Illinois, Onio, and on the seaboard, and very extensively in Virginia and New-York, and it is made more or less in most of the States and Territories of the Union. It now meets and keeps down the price of foreign salt. Sir, allow it but one-haif of its former protection, and we would soon be independent of the world for an article at once convenient, comfortable and indispensable.

This interest is the last that should be molested. It should have more, rather than less protection. Suppose the case of a foreign war, of which you are never

This interest is the last that should be molested. It should have more, rather than less protection. Suppose the case of a foreign war, of which you are never out of danger. Relying on a foreign supply of an article that enters into the oally indispensable use of every family, rich or peor, you might as well depend on foreigners for power as for sait. One would be as absurd as the other. Sir, if you will not raise the protection on sait, be so kind as not to disturb what little there is of it left. Preserve the manufacture of sait for safety's sake, if not for protection. You may think, Sir, the duty in question is but a trifle. Then I hope you will not disturb it. Small though it be to you, it is sufficient to the manufacturer to transport the article 100 mises, and thus far extend the market. I hope the honorable Chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means will consect to place sait on the 20 per cent schedule, and allow it the small protection it now enjoys.

Means will censent to place sait on the 20 per cent schedule, and allow it the small protection it now enjoys.

Since the war of 1812, we have at three different times revorted to a protective tariff to relieve us from financial distress. From 1818 to 1824, with a mere revenue tariff, the balance of trade was against us, and during that term of six years our exports of specie exceeded our imports \$10,000,000. This caused the protective tariff of 1824, and the effect of the change was soon felt. Confidence and activity returned, and instead of exporting specie we imported specie to a large amount. The effect was so obvious and gratifying that the still higher tariff of 1828 was enacted—the highest we ever had. This tariff was matured and brought forward by that distinguished Democrat. Silas Wright. Under these two protective tariffs of 1824 and 1828, up to 1834—ten years—the whole country was blessed with a prosperity perhaps never before equaled in this or any other country. In this ten years of protection, from 1824 to 1834, we imported thirty millions of specie more than we exported, and paid off the debts of two wars, that of the Revolution and of 1812, in all, principal and interest, \$100,000,000.

Next came the descending compromise twiff of Mr. Clay. In justice to the memory of that great man, at this point I desire to say, he consented to let down his long-cherished and favorite protection, not as a matter of choice but of necessity, deeming it safer to come down gradually than to fall at once, saying at the time, "I trust the country will come to its senses, and return to its true policy."

By a sliding scale this tariff brought us down in nine

own gradually than to fail at once, saying at the state, "I trust the country will come to its senses, and return to its true policy."

By a sliding scale this tariff brought us down in nino years to a horizontal tariff of twenty per ceut. The result was, the Government soon found itself out of funds and out of credit, and bankruptcy and distrust pervading the whole community.

In this dilemma the Government dispatched an agent to England to make a raise, but so lew was its credit that not a "haporth" could it borrow, and its man (Robertson) returned without a dollar in his pocket. The distress was so universal, and so cleanly attributable to the ruling party, that the people rose can masse and demanded a change of men and measures. The authors of this mistaken policy were driven from power, and Gen. Harrison was elected President of the United States by an overwhelming majority, and the protective tariff of 1842 was the consequence. A general bankrupt law became necessary, and was enacted to relieve a generation of active and enterprising men who had been swept from their moorings by the irresistible current of financial revulsion. Mr. Fillmore, as head of the Committee of Ways and Means, reported the Tariff Law of 1842 as a remedy for the financial disorders occasioned by substituting a revenue for a protective tariff.

This Tariff of 1842 was arranged for protection and

nue for a protective tariff.

This Tariff of 1842 was arranged for protection and This Tarisff of 1842 was arranged for protection and revenue incidental. It justified the anticipations of its most sanguine friends; and for the skill and ability displayed by Mr. Fillmere, he won the applause and has received the gratitude of his country. Death removed Gen. Harrison from us, and the nation mourned the loss of an honest man. His friends were betrayed by his successor. Van Buren was lost in the storm, but his party again came into power, and brought with them their former Free-Trade propessities. The Tariff of 1842 was allowed only a brief existence, long enough, however, to establish its character as an effectual cure for the financial heresise of the day. The party in power thought proper to reverse the order of things, and the foundations of our national prosperity were again broken up. The Tariff of 1842 was repealed, and that of 1846, the present one, substituted. It was said in high places that the principle of protection was swrong, and in an evil hour Congress adopted the maxim. The great leading interests of wool, woolens, and iron, so intimately connected with the farming interest, were disregarded. Protection was sneered at, and Free Trade become the battle-cry at every political contest.

Sir. unless we have a radical change in our tariff Sir, unless we have a radical change in our tariff contest.

Sir, unless we have a radical change in our tariff laws, we shall surely have another financial crash. Come it will, and it is only a question of time. We must manufacture more and import less, and keep our specie at home. We must raise our own wool, and make our cloth and iron as we do our glass, nails and cettens, and thus furnish a convenient and ready market for the farmer, with little or no waste for transcortation. We have a foreign debt of near \$250,000,000. We are sending off \$50,000,000 a year, one half of which goes to pay dividends and interest. We are constantly sending away, to pay balances, good paying stocks, and sending them below par at that. Sir, we must take in sail or we shall soon be on our beam-end. Discerning men siready begin to hoard hard money, and that is ominous. We want a tariff for protection for the sake of protection, and revenue incidental. Protection is now vastly more important to us than revenue, but we can have them both at once. We can kill the two birds with one stone. There is not the least difficulty in it. Let your tariff discriminate for protection and you will not lack revenue.

mentry in it. Let your rains observable for protection and you will not lack revenue.

We paid the cost of two British wars with high, protective tariffs, the highest we ever had. The protective tariffs of 1824, 1828, and 1842 gave this country money, credit and prosperity; and the revenue tariffs that intervened produced exactly the opposite results. They have always run us under, and they always will. They have always run us under, and they always will. England, France and Germany understand, it and laugh in their sleeve at our stupidity and folly. They would contract to day to pay us \$50,000,000 annually for twenty years if we would stipulate to abandon protection entirely. Do it. Sir, and our great leading intercets, agriculture, manufacture, commerce, and navigation, would all come down at once. Labor, our greatest staple, would droop and fall in market \$100,000,000 the first year. A bargain like that would make us a poor, dependent people—mere colonies as we once were. dependent people—mere colonies as we once were. Sir, we have the remedy in our own hands. We have the power to change the course of trade, to take a commanding position and maintain it, and it is our own fault if we do not do it. Let us take care of our own fault if we do not do it. Let us take care of our selves and stop this misons export of specie. "He "that provides not for his own household is said to be "worse than an infidel." Make a free list of articles that we import that do not compete with our own productions and raise a revenue more or less on competing articles and luxuries. Diversify and distribute labor, and give it American labor in all cases, the kingst end of the evener.

Hear and heed the words of Gen. Jackson: "We "must become more Americanized. Plant your manu-

Hear and beed the words of Gen. Jackson: "We must become more Americanized. Plant your manu"jacturers by the side of your farmers, and you coner
"your country with blessings." Sir, if pritection is wrong in principle and poney, and free trade right, then repeal all your tariff laws at once, and give us the full beneal of tree trade. Repeal the Navigation Act of 1789, and let foreign ship! do our consiling trade.

Repeal the law that requires the coast navigation by done in American-built vessels. Never mind the mand diversified interests consected with the shippen nor the hundreds of thousands of industrious non apployed there, nor as many more employed to food clothe them; they may do as they can—they can for employment concentere else. Abandon all this Sir, we that is free trade.

then support the Government by direct taxation, extend in the support the Government by direct taxation, extend in free trade.

Sir, if all you desire of a tariff is merely to reisoney to support the Government, you ought not be have any tariff at all. Nothing can be more unequal and unjust than to collect taxes in this way. The property according to its value, and serve every me alke. Tax every one according to what he has, and make the rich pay their share, and do not draw from the industrious mechanic of limited means as much a you do from the miserly millionaire. Sir, if protection is not an object, then most clearly the procent mode of raising money to support the Government is of all things the most oppressive.

RIGHTS OF ACTUAL SETTLERS.

Mr. Wilsos—I move that the bill to secure to actual settlers the niternate sections of the public lands reserved in the grants to the States for railroads, which i introduced yesterday, be taken from the table for the purpose of reference.

The motion was agreed to; and the bill was read the second time.

The motion was agreed to; and the bill was read the second time.

A BILL to secure to estual settlers the alternate sections of the Public Lands reserved in the grants to the States for Railroads.

By it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled. That the alternate sections of land, reserved in the grants of land made to the States of which hereafter may be made for the construction of printends and canals, be, and the same are hereby, withdrawn from entry or sale to any persons except actual settlers, battle such persons, and such only, as are described in the tenth section of the act of the fourth of September, eighteen hundred and forty-one, entitled "An act to appropriate the proceeds of the act of the public lands, and to arean precompton rights. Each such persons shall be entitled to anter of said lands one quarter section only. In making said entry said persons shall comply with all the provisions of said act, except that the per stre.

Sec. 3. And be it for the enacted. That the Commissioner of the General Land-Office shall nake and publish all necessary

comply with all the provisions of seal act, except that the complete to be paid for said tands shall be two dellars and fifty cents are stree.

SEC. 3. Seal be it further exacted. That the Commissioner of the General Land-Office shall make and publish all necessary rules and regulations for carrying into effect this set, seconding to list true intent and meaning.

Mr. Witson—Mr. Precident: At the last seesion twenty-one millions of acres of the public lands were granted to several States, by Congress, for railway purposes. These grants reserved alternate sections, and placed upon them the price of two dellars and fifty ceets per acre. These reserved sections of the public domain, amounting to ten and a half millions of acres, will seen come into the market at two and a half delians per acre; and these lands, thus located on the lines of the proposed railroads, will be promptly purchased by land speculators, many of them non-real durits of the States and of the actual settlers. Thus the twenty-one millions acres of the public domain, which was open to the actual settlers—to the immigrants from the older States, and from the Old World—will pass, one half into the centrol of railway corporations, and the other half into the centrol of railway corporations, and land speculators.

This bull properes to withdraw from the market these alternate sections reserved in the grants to the States, and that they shall be sold to actual settlers in accordance with the provisions of the act of September 4, 1841. This sect of 1811 clearly defines the rights of actual settlers upon the public domain. Under that act pre-upition rights are secured to settlers. By withdrawing the niternate sections reserved in the railway grants from the market, we secure to the people—the engigants to the new States—the men who are to cultivate the soil upon the lines of the railroads. This policy will being upon the lines of the secure by the grants to the scates, and to the railroads. This policy of recurring to actual settlers, under the grants

The bill was referred to the Committee on Public

EXTRAORDINARY DELUSION.

SWINDLING RELIGIOUS IMPOSTOR From The Philadelphia North American

We poticed, a few days since, the arrest of a woma named Anna Maister, at a house in the northern part of the city, on the charge of defrauding a number of persons by representing that she was the sister of Christ, and would send their souls to heaven on the receipt of a certain sum of money.

A hearing in the case was had before Alderman

Encu last evening, at the Central Police Station. The office was densely crowded with bystanders, the most of whom were Germans, and were among the numerous victims of the imposter. Mrs. Maister, the principal in the affair, occupied a

Mrs. Maister, the principal in the affair, occupied a scat near the witness stand. Ste is a German woman, possessing no very uncommon features. Her nose was long, and had a peculiar tun-up at the end. She is of medium hight, and apparently 35 years of age. She was dressed in a piain manner, except her bonnet, which was somewhat flashy, and possessed a large feather. She presented the appearance of a determined and intriusing woman.

realiser. She presented the appearance of a decertained and intriguing woman.

Her assistant, named Caroline Wenner, who was also under arrest, sat at the side of her mistress. She was a plain-looking young grit, possessing very red cheeks, and also a similar peculiar "turn-up" nose as

her mistrees.

Judge Parsons represented the part of the victims of the accused, who had brought suit against her, and questioned the witness. District-Attorney Caesidy was also present.

also present.

Margaret Masst, a German woman, was examined, and teetified, partly through the means of an interpreter, and partly in broken English. We give as much of her testimony as we could secure under the circumstances. It presents the important features of

the case:

1 reside on Germantown road, above Jefferson street,

I recognize the accused, Anna Master.

Question. What do you know in regard to the prisoner having represented herself as being a relative of the Deity, &c. 7 Answer. She represented that she was the sister of God, of the Holy Ghost, and of Jesus

the Deity, &c.? Answer. She represented that she was the sister of God, of the Holy Ghost, and of Jesus Christ, our Savier.

Q. How did she obtain her disciples? A. I will tell you how she obtained me as a disciple; a woman, who used to come to my house very often on business, and as an acquaintance of other persons living in the same house with me, one day asked me if I heard of the great woman who was the sister of God and who was savirg so many souls? I was ashamed of my ignorance, and I asked her what she meant; she then manifested surprise that I knew so little, and asked me if I would not like to be bester informed; I answered that I would, and promised to go on the next Sunday if it was clear weather; I asked how much the great woman charged; she replied. "Oh, she can take no money; it would fall out of her hands if she took it; she could not hold it in her hands for a moment;" well, on the next Sunday I prepared myself to go; I dressed myself in very plain clothing, thinking that I had to go to so serious a place; well, when I got to the woman's house, I found two or three other ladies there, who sets dressed in very fine clothes, wearing silk frocks. Ac., and I telt arhamed of myself; pretty soon I heard preaching and reasing of verses out of a book, and they said that the woman was looking into heaven: I was perplexed and did not know what to make of the affair; when I got home one of my neighbors sent for me, and told me not to go to the house any more, as she knew that Mrs. Miller; the name of the woman who had first told me of the affair) was paid so much money for every soul she got; I visited the house of the great woman again, and I told her just what I had heard about her and Mrs. Miller; she registed that people would see what was doing was all for good, and would not be opposed to the doctrines she taught.

Q. Did yeu not suspect there was something wrong in the matter? A. Well, Sin, I was rendered such a

Q. Did yeu not suspect there was something wrong in the matter? A. Well, Sin, I was rendered such a machine by the woman, that she had the power to do anything at all with me; the next day a man came to my house and give me a note, which he said Mrs.